

# ALUMNI ISSUE 29 • WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER

#### **President's Corner**

Dear Atlantic Cape Alumni,

The Fall Semester is always a very busy time of year at Atlantic Cape and I would like to share a few updates with you on what's happening at the college. Our

students are engaged in studying and participating in activities and athletics. We are continuing our hard work to ensure our students receive a high-quality education to prepare them for their future educational and career aspirations. In fact, we have exciting new projects at Atlantic Cape underway as we speak.

The Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) Certificate program officially began this fall semester, enrolling sixteen students. This program, designed to be completed in 1.5 years, supports residents who desire a career in nursing with pathways into well-paying careers, helping them support their families and communities.

In early October, we held a signing ceremony for our new 3+1 program with Stockton

University. Students can now achieve a Bachelor's Degree in Advanced and Continuous Studies by completing three years of course work here at Atlantic Cape where they will gain their Associate's Degree, and complete one year at Stockton University. This program will be mutually beneficial for our two institutions and will provide a unique opportunity for Atlantic Cape students to achieve their educational goals.

On the Mays Landing Campus, the new Welcome Center opened just in time for the Fall semester. Students are now able to utilize any of our student services by visiting this one location where they are assigned to the appropriate employee for a more streamlined and efficient service experience. The Welcome Center has been years in the making and we are so excited to offer this resource to our students.

Atlantic Cape also partnered with the Cape May Zoo and provided space to offer the popular Zoo Education Programs on our Cape May campus. The Cape May campus also hosted an official ribbon cutting for the Cape May County BizHub on September 6th. The BizHub is a business resource center focusing on educating, developing, supporting and attracting businesses that contribute to the growth of the Cape May County economy.

This year Atlantic Cape celebrated the Casino Career Institute (CCI) 45th Anniversary. The Casino Career Institute, which opened in 1978, has been a hallmark of our Workforce Development program.

These are just a few examples of how we continue to support our students and community. I invite all graduates to stay involved and keep us updated about your accomplishments. If you have not already done so, please consider joining our Alumni Association to share your success stories.

I thank you for your continued support and interest in Atlantic Cape and wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

Barbara Gabo

<sup>'</sup> Dr. Barbara Gaba President

### Distinguished Alumni and Young Alumni Achievement Awards

Visit atlantic.edu/alumniaward to learn about these annual awards and to nominate a deserving Atlantic Cape Graduate!

NOMINATION DEADLINE: January 26, 2024

For more information, contact Kristin Jackson at kjackson@atlanticcape.edu or (609) 463-3621.

atlanticcape.edu/alumni

## 2023 Scramble 'FORE' Scholarships Golf Tournament



From left to right: Kristin Jackson '09, Senior Manager, Advancement, Alumni and Foundation Events, Atlantic Cape Community College; James Rutala, Foundation President and Owner, Rutala Associates; Roman Osadchuk, Honorary Foundation board member and Golf Tournament Committee Co-Chair, Owner, RPO Real Estate; Ryan Smith, Foundation board member and Golf Tournament Committee member, Relationship Manager, TD Bank; Jean McAlister, Chief of Staff/Chief Advancement Officer, Executive Director, Atlantic Cape Foundation; Mayor Zachary Mullock, Foundation board member, Director of Golf, Cape May National Golf, and City of Cape May Mayor; Robert Mullock, Honorary Foundation member and President/Co-Designer, Cape May National Golf Club; and Christopher Mularz '01, Advancement Officer and Associate Director, Atlantic Cape Foundation.

The Atlantic Cape Foundation is excited to announce that the 2023 Scramble 'FORE' Scholarships Golf Tournament had another record-breaking year raising \$71,500 for student scholarships, program funding, and Foundation operations.

The 2023 event was held on Friday, October 13, with 131 eager golfers hitting the beautiful course under sunny skies at Cape May National Golf Club. Proceeds from this year's event will support scholarships for Atlantic Cape students pursuing programs in environmental science and biology. Additionally, a portion of the proceeds will support equipment and programming for Atlantic Cape faculty and students at the Cape May Point Science Center, which plans to offer science education programs in partnership with Atlantic Cape Community College. Since the event's debut in 2004, the annual golf tournament has raised more than \$800,000.

Highlights of the day included a scramble format, giveaways, skills challenges, tournament and raffle prizes, beverage and snack stations on the course, a yummy boxed lunch provided by Bill's Corner Deli in Wildwood, and a delicious awards dinner catered by S&H Southern Cuisine from Cape May Court House. Thank you to our generous sponsors for supporting this year's event!

For more information about this and other Atlantic Cape Foundation events, please contact Kristin Jackson at kjackson@atlanticcape.edu or (609) 463-3621.

Platinum Sponsor:

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For information about this event, including sponsorship opportunities and restaurant participation please contact Kristin Jackson at kjackson@atlanticcape.edu or (609) 463-3621.

Special Alumni Ticket Price: \$175 per ticket (a \$75 savings)

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Breaking out of one's proverbial shell to realize their tremendous potential can be a difficult challenge that takes courage, perseverance and dedication. To find your passion, to shoot for the stars and literally achieve your dream working among them is the realization of years of hard work.

From South Jersey college student to Human Factors engineer at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Johnson Space Center in Houston, Atlantic Cape alumna Nicole Schoenstein is a living embodiment of these qualities.

Being a homebound student throughout high school taught Schoenstein invaluable skills that

led her to really enjoy the process of learning. The thought of attending college, though, was never discussed at home and far from her mind.

"College was the furthest thing from my mind because I didn't see it as an option. It was never discussed at home and I didn't even know community college existed until I did research about it a couple of years after earning my high school diploma."

Her research led to attending Atlantic Cape where Schoenstein majored in Paralegal Studies. But, it was an invitation to join the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society (PTK) during her second semester that would change her life forever by helping her build enough confidence and motivation to take on different types of opportunities.

Schoenstein graduated in 2010 with her Associate in Applied Science degree in Paralegal Studies and in 2012 with an Associate in Science degree in General Studies. While at Stockton University, Schoenstein completed three internships at the NASA Johnson Space Center in 2015 and 2016, which led to a job offer after she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with minors in Behavioral Neuroscience and Gerontology in 2016.

To learn more about Nicole's journey from Atlantic Cape to NASA, please visit atlanticcape.edu/schoenstein.

### **2023 Women of Wonder Awards**

The Atlantic Cape Community College Foundation and the Cape May County Women's Commission hosted the 2023 Women of Wonder luncheon fundraiser on Thursday, November 2, 2023 at The Flanders Hotel in Ocean City. Thanks to our generous sponsors and attendees, this year's event raised \$14,150, which will support scholarships for Cape May County students attending Atlantic Cape Community College. The Women of Wonder Scholarship Endowment Fund was established in 2021 but event proceeds have been producing scholarships for Atlantic Cape students since 2011.

The following 2023 Women of Wonder Award recipients were honored during the event: Tracey Boyle-DuFault, Executive Director of the Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce; Sandra Lockhart (Operations Director) and Terri Mascione (Program Director) of The Branches Outreach in Rio Grande; and Jennifer Shirk, author and President of the Ocean City Free Public Library Board of Trustees. The Atlantic Cape Foundation and Women's Commission also posthumously honored the late Laurie Johnson, Executive Director of Family Promise of Cape May County, for her many important and lasting contributions to our community.

To learn more about this year's honorees and to view photos from the event, please visit atlanticcape.edu/wow. For more information about the Women of Wonder Award, please contact Kristin Jackson at kjackson@atlanticcape.edu or (609) 463-3621.





### Atlantic Cape and Stockton University Sign 3+1 Pathway Partnership Agreement

"We have a long history of partnering with Stockton University, our fellow anchor institution, and we are very proud to continue this partnership to bring this new program to Atlantic Cape and Stockton, as it offers students the opportunity to earn both an associate's and bachelor's degree at an affordable rate and with a seamless transition, providing a life-changing college education that they can use to enhance their career opportunities,"

said Dr. Barbara Gaba, President Atlantic Cape Community College.



Atlantic Cape Community College President Dr. Barbara Gaba and Stockton University President Dr. Joe Bertolino officially signed off on a 3+1 pathway partnership agreement between the two institutions of higher learning on Monday, October 2 in the STEM building lobby on Atlantic Cape's Mays Landing campus.

This partnership will allow Atlantic Cape students, after completing their associate degree, to enroll in the Advanced and Continuing Education Studies associate degree program to earn up to 90 Atlantic Cape credits that may be transferred to a corresponding Stockton University baccalaureate degree program in Liberal Studies.

Through this program, students are empowered to plan their full educational experience in a cost-effective way that will begin at Atlantic Cape and culminate in a baccalaureate degree from Stockton University. Students will complete their associate's degree and their junior year of Stockton on Atlantic Cape's campus at the community college tuition rate. The student's senior year would be completed at Stockton and at the four-year university's tuition rate.

Visit atlanticcape.edu/3plus1stockton to learn more about this collaborative effort between Atlantic Cape and Stockton University.

#### **BE INVOLVED. STAY CONNECTED.** And Continue the Buccaneer Tradition of Excellence!



- There are many opportunities for Alumni to Volunteer:
  - Mentor Students
  - Classroom Guest Speaker
  - Volunteer at Alumni or College Events
  - Serve on the Advisory Committee
- Assist at College Open Houses and Recruitment events.



Tell us how you want to volunteer. Please contact Kristinw Jackson at kjackson@atlanticcape.edu or (609) 463-3621

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